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Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 04116 261523Z

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 NSC-07 PRS-01 SSO-00 DRC-01 RSC-01

/043 W
---------- 090976
R 261530Z MAR 74
FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0484

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E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IN
SUBJ: HARVARD COMMENCEMENT INVITATION TO MRS. GANDHI

1. P.N. DHAR, PRIVATE SECRETARY TO THE PRIME MINISTER, INFORMED ME THIS MORNING THAT SHE WOULD NOT BE ABLE TO ACCEPT HARVARD'S INVITATION TO BE THE COMMENCEMENT SPEAKER THIS COMING JUNE. A SIMILAR INVITATION WAS PROFFERED LAST YEAR, BUT AMBASSADOR JHA THOUGHT IT MIGHT BE "PREMATURE" TO ACCEPT. THIS YEAR HARVARD TRIED AGAIN. ON SATURDAY DHAR SAID TO ME THAT GIVEN THE INTERNAL DIFFICULTIES OF THE MOMENT, HE FELT THE PRIME MINISTER WOULD NOT FEEL FREE TO LEAVE INDIA. IN EXPLAINED THAT IF THIS WERE SO HARVARD WOULD NEED TO KNOW OF IT FAIRLY SOON AS A SUBSTITUTE SPEAKER WOULD HAVE TO BE GOT. HE SAID A DECISION WOULD BE MADE MONDAY, WHICH EVIDENTLY IT WAS.

2. A CURIOUS NOTE. SATURDAY EVENING J.S. TEJA, JOINT SECRETARY FOR THE AMERICAS, INFORMED ME THAT THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS WAS RATHER HOPING THAT THE SECRETARY MIGHT VISIT INDIA EARLY IN MAY IN ORDER THAT MRS. GANDHI MIGHT RETURN THE VISIT EARLY IN JUNE BY GOING TO HARVARD. I SAID NOTHING AS I KNOW NOTHING.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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Disposition Case Number: n/a
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